

arrangement of its collection of books which in both respects compares favorably with those of much older establishments. In liberality of administration the Academy is especially deserving of recognition, as, apart from the fact that under the By-Laws the books must be consulted on the premises, it places on the reader none of the restrictions almost universally met with elsewhere.

It is increasingly apparent that the growth and arrangement of the library are seriously interfered with by lack of means. If it were not for the care taken to secure the largest possible return from exchange of publications, the other resources at the disposal of the Library Committee would be entirely inadequate, and the opportunity for advanced study in the Academy would be materially curtailed. This would be now more than ever the cause of serious regret, because the library was never so much resorted to by students of kindred institutions as it has been during the past year. Not only for such readers, but more especially for our own workers, it is essential that the latest scientific literature be placed promptly on our shelves and in such binding as to make it most convenient of access with the least wear and tear. To secure these ends at least double the income now at the disposal of the Library Committee will be required.

Acknowledgement is again due Mr. Wm. J. Fox for efficient service in the library, especially during the Librarian's absence in Europe.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

EDWARD J. NOLAN,  
*Librarian.*

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## REPORT OF THE CURATORS.

The past year has been characterized by a greatly increased interest on the part of the general public in the Academy's Museum, owing to the better facilities for the exhibition of the collections afforded by the new museum building, the opening of which was recorded in our last report. New cases have been placed on the first and second floors of the new building, and much has been accomplished in perfecting the arrangement of the various collections.

The Curators are able to report the specimens at the present time in an excellent state of preservation, although the impossibility of the systematic arrangement and proper display of the collections

in some departments, owing to the need of cases, seriously affects their examination and use by students.

The most noteworthy change in the arrangement of the museum during the year has been the transfer of the wall cases on the bird gallery to the basement of the new building, where a commodious storage department has been arranged for the reception of the great bulk of the alcoholic preparations.

The entire series of fishes and alcoholic mollusca have already been arranged in their new quarters, and are much more accessible to the student, besides being entirely protected from the dampness which, in their old situation, seriously affected the preservation of the labels.

The entire collection of fishes, numbering upward of fifteen thousand, has been catalogued by Mr. Henry W. Fowler, and supplementary labels placed inside the jars to ensure the preservation of the data.

The work of cataloguing and renovating the ornithological collection, which has been in progress for several years past, has been brought to completion.

The remounted exhibition collection is ready for removal to the third floor of the new building, as soon as sufficient cases can be procured.

A start has already been made in the furnishing of this floor, and one handsome plate-glass case has been placed in position, in which will be arranged a synoptical collection representing the principal orders of birds.

A similar case has been placed in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey room for the accommodation of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club Collection of local birds with nests and eggs, which is now nearly complete. For the storage of bird skins additional space has been allotted adjoining the room of the Ornithological Section.

In the mammal hall attention is called to the group of Alaskan Fur Seals, collected by Dr. Sharp and Mr. J. M. Justice, which has been mounted during the year, and is now displayed in a large plate-glass case.

Numerous other animals have been mounted by the taxidermist during the past year, all of which maintain the high standard of work which has characterized the specimens prepared for museum exhibition in the past few years.

Foremost among these may be mentioned the Orang Utan, Striped Hyæna, Pacific Walrus, Cheetah and Florida Crocodile.

In the department of paleontology much valuable work has been accomplished. The large slabs containing the Ichthyosauri have been removed from the old vestibule to the entrance of the new Museum on Nineteenth Street, where they can be seen to much better advantage.

The collection of vertebrate remains from the Port Kennedy Bone Cave, upon which Professor Cope did his last scientific work, has been displayed in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Room. The entire collection of American invertebrate fossils has been rearranged during the year, and placed in systematic order as regards horizons, while upward of twelve hundred specimens have been cleaned and placed in trays.

Work on the Isaac Lea Eocene Collection has progressed regularly during the year, through the liberality of the Rev. L. T. Chamberlain, D. D. Mr. C. W. Johnson has been engaged in arranging the display collection, which has been increased to fill an additional case provided by Dr. Chamberlain early in the year.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Burns have also done a considerable amount of field work which has added richly to the collection.

Miss Anna T. Jeanes has presented two horizontal oak cases, which have been placed on the first floor of the new museum, in which a synoptical collection of minerals has been arranged for the benefit of students, while a portion of the old collection of minerals, which it is not desired to exhibit, has been stored underneath in the drawers.

A collection of rocks from Philadelphia and vicinity, selected mainly from the State Geological Survey Collection, has been arranged in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Room, and a synoptical collection of rocks has been arranged in two cases in the old museum, both of which will prove of assistance to students of geology.

Four additional cases have been added to the William S. Vaux Collection for the accommodation of exceptionally large crystals and masses of minerals, and an additional case to the Clarence B. Moore Archaeological Collection. Mr. Moore has spent much time in the field during the year, and has added many rare and interesting specimens to this collection.

The conchological department has continued to increase under the constant care of the professor in that department, and the rear-

range of a considerable portion of the bivalves has been made possible by the removal of part of the minerals from this gallery.

Besides those already mentioned, there have been numerous large and valuable additions to the museum during the year, as will be seen in the appended list.

Among them we would call attention to the valuable collection of marine specimens from California, presented by Mr. Harold Heath; a collection of rocks and birds from South Africa, presented by Dr. Emil Holub, through Mr. H. G. Bryant; a collection of Coleoptera from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, presented by the Feldman Collecting Social, a collection of African insects and mollusks from Dr. A. Donaldson Smith; a collection of alcoholic mammals of North America from S. N. Rhoads, as well as the numerous valuable specimens received through the year from the Zoological Society of Philadelphia. The collection of marine invertebrates preserved in formaline has also been increased through the liberality of Mr. F. W. Walmsley.

Several important improvements in the museum building are also noteworthy, particularly the fitting up of the receiving room at the east end, as an addition to the library and the renovation of the Council Room.

The Curators have also, during the year, vacated one of the small rooms on the library floor, and have allotted a large space on the basement floor of the new museum for the storage of publications.

The Curators take this occasion to express their indebtedness to various members and to the Conservators of the Sections, for valuable assistance in caring for the special collections, particulars of which will be found in their several reports.

Important assistance has also been rendered by the students of the Jessup Fund. Much assistance has been given to specialists by placing the collections at their disposal, and in addition to the many who have made use of material at the Academy, specimens have been loaned to representatives of various scientific institutions throughout the country, including Anthony Woodward, Henry C. Mercer, T. Wayland Vaughan, Fred'k. A. Lucas, L. M. Underwood, H. M. Smith, Walter Faxon, C. F. Millspaugh, H. C. Oberholser, B. L. Robinson, T. W. Stanton, Robert Ridgway and others.

HENRY C. CHAPMAN, M. D.,

*Chairman of the Curators.*